**Indian Removal**

**Section 1**

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| 00:00:01 | Take a look at the lesson question. What led to the American Indian removal policy of the 1830s? It focuses on change, how the US government eventually decided to remove American Indians from their land. You have learned that as the United States expanded to the west, American Indians resisted US claims to the land. In this lesson, you will see what led the United States to decide to remove American |
| 00:00:29 | Indians from their land. At first, settlers thought that American Indians should adopt and accept their culture and ways of life. The United States would change its policy and call for Indian removal. We will then take a look at the Cherokee removal. Well, first let's look at assimilation. |
| 00:00:55 | Assimilation means adopting parts of another culture and making them part of your own culture. It can also mean giving up your own culture completely. |

**Section 2**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: President Jefferson pushed for the assimilation of American Indians. To assimilate means to adopt or adapt to the dominant, in this case white, culture. The idea was that if American Indians adopted white ways, they could stay on their lands because they could blend in with expanding US settlement that was happening all around them. |
| 00:00:26 | Jefferson believed that American Indians should abandon their traditional ways of life. This included giving up nomadic or semi-nomadic ways to live in one place all year and to set up farms. The American Indians who did not want to go along with this plan would be moved to the west of the Mississippi River, out of the way of American settlement. Congress approved money to promote agricultural education |
| 00:01:00 | among American Indians. Some American Indian nations followed Jefferson's plan for assimilation. For example, Shawnee Chief Black Hoof, pictured here, agreed to give up Shawnee lands in the Ohio country in exchange for government payments and trade goods. Many Shawnees built log cabins, adopted clothing styles of the white settlers, and took up farming. |
| 00:01:28 | But not All-American Indians wanted to accept and be a part of white culture. |

**Section 4**

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| 00:00:00 | TEACHER: Many groups rejected assimilation. Often those who tried to assimilate were still not accepted as equals by white settlers or the US government. White settlers continued to hunt on American Indian land, making food scarce. The US government allowed the hunting to continue, offering food aid that left many American |
| 00:00:22 | Indians dependent on handouts. "Many American Indians refused to assimilate. They did not believe that their own cultures were inferior to white culture." And they resented the demand and pressure to assimilate. This led to divisions among American Indians. Five American Indian nations in the Southeast attempted to assimilate into white culture. |
| 00:00:52 | Americans who considered their own culture to be superior to American Indian culture referred to these American Indians as the Five Civilized Tribes. These tribes that assimilated were the "Cherokee, the Choctaw, the Creek, the Chickasaw, and the Seminole." "The Cherokee invented a writing system" for the Cherokee language and "wrote a constitution," |
| 00:01:20 | based on the US Constitution. This portrait shows Sequoyah, who created the Cherokee syllabary. "Some Cherokee planted cotton" and had enslaved African Americans who worked in their fields. |

**Section 6**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: Assimilation did not protect American Indians from the pressure to give up their land. Even those found that their efforts to fit in with white society failed to win them the respect of settlers or the US government who were more determined than ever to take American Indian land. Many settlers did not accept assimilated American Indians |
| 00:00:26 | as their equals. Settlers wanted the profitable land occupied by American Indians. The US government still saw American Indians as an obstacle to expansion. The attempt at assimilation had failed to solve the conflict between American Indians and US settlers. |
| 00:00:49 | Now the US government would pursue a different policy-- removal. |

**Section 7**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: What led to the American Indian removal policy of the 1830s? You have learned about the policy of assimilation, and how even those tribes that adopted the culture of the colonists were not accepted by white Americans or the US government. Now you will learn that the policy of the US government shifted under President Andrew Jackson. |
| 00:00:28 | Now officials were eager to force American Indians to move west. |

**Section 8**

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| 00:00:00 | TEACHER: In 1828, citizens of the state of Georgia found gold on neighboring Cherokee land. A gold rush began, and the state government of Georgia began auctioning off Cherokee land to prospectors, people in search of valuable metals, mostly gold. The Cherokee protested this in a case that was decided by the US Supreme Court. |
| 00:00:24 | The Cherokee claimed that they were a sovereign nation, while Georgia claimed that the Cherokee were tenants of the state of Georgia and were allowed to live there only because the state approved. In Cherokee Nation versus Georgia in 1831, the Supreme Court members said that it had no jurisdiction to hear the case. The court did not view the Cherokee |
| 00:00:48 | as an actual foreign nation, so the court ruled that they could not sue as one in court. As a result, the Cherokee began to search for another way to legally fight the government's actions, however, they faced presidential opposition. While the Cherokee were fighting in the courts, Andrew Jackson began working to remove all American Indians to points west of the Mississippi. |
| 00:01:17 | Jackson became famous after serving as a general in the War of 1812 and the Seminole Wars. He was elected senator and then seventh president of the US, elected in 1828. Unlike Jefferson, Jackson believed American Indians could not live among white Americans and must give up their land to American settlers. With Jackson's support, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act |
| 00:01:47 | of 1830. The act authorized treaties to remove all American Indians from territory east of the Mississippi River to an Indian territory west of the Mississippi River. Some groups, such as the Sauk and Fox to the north in Illinois, resisted removal. The Sauk and Fox were defeated in what came to be called Black Hawk's War. |
| 00:02:19 | Others, such as Cherokee chief John Ross, went to court in a failed attempt to block removal. The Cherokee were given an 1838 deadline to leave their homelands. |

**Section 10**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: The Cherokee used their knowledge of US law, knowledge gained through their assimilation of US ways, to protest Georgia's action in the Supreme Court. In its 1832 ruling, Worcester versus Georgia, the Supreme Court ruled that the Cherokee Nation was a distinct community with self-government. This meant that US states could not impose their laws on American Indians. |
| 00:00:31 | Only the federal government could negotiate with American Indians. If the US government wanted the Cherokee to leave their land, the government had to negotiate a treaty with them. The court said that if the Cherokee did not want to accept the treaty to give up their land, they did not have to. |

**Section 11**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: What led to the American Indian removal policy of the 1830s? The goal of American Indian removal took shape in the 1820s and 1830s. In 1830, the Indian Removal Act spelled the end of American Indian sovereignty in the eastern United States. The Cherokee removal would be especially brutal. |
| 00:00:25 | It is known as the Trail of Tears. |

**Section 12**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: The US government began to pressure tribes to sign treaties accepting removal. One of these treaties was the Treaty of New Echota. The treaty was signed between the US government and a group of self-appointed Cherokee representatives. This group did not include members of tribal leadership, such as John Ross. The treaty traded all Cherokee land east of the Mississippi |
| 00:00:29 | for $5 million. The treaty was controversial, because those that signed the treaty did not have the authority to speak for all Cherokee. Cherokee leaders were not included in the negotiations and did not agree to the treaty or sign it. The vast majority of Cherokee rejected it. Despite this, the treaty was considered valid |
| 00:00:58 | by the US government. The US government ignored the protests of Cherokee leaders and began planning to force the Cherokee to move. In 1838, President Martin Van Buren ordered the US Army to seize Cherokee resistors in preparation for relocation to Indian territory. While some Cherokee moved voluntarily, the vast majority did not. |
| 00:01:28 | As a result, many Cherokee remained in Georgia at the 1838 deadline. They were resistors who refused to leave their land. In response, the president ordered the US Army to remove them by force. Soldiers surprised Cherokee families in their homes. They were given no time to prepare and were forced to leave without taking any provisions. |
| 00:02:00 | Most were held in camps until all Cherokee could be rounded up. In the late fall of 1838, the Army began to move the Cherokee west to Indian territory. The forced march west became known as the Trail of Tears. It comes from the stories passed down through some American Indian families who called the journey the trail where we cried. |
| 00:02:32 | So what was the Trail of Tears like? The forced march was long and difficult. 15,000 Cherokee marched more than 800 miles over 116 days. So what do we know about this trail? The march took place during an extremely cold winter. Cherokee were not allowed to take shelter in towns that they passed along the way. About 4,000 Cherokee, about 1 in 4, including John Ross's wife, |
| 00:03:11 | died on the trail west. The Trail of Tears is just one example of the forced removal of American Indians. Many other Indian nations had similar experiences. In all, historians estimate about 60,000 American Indians were forcibly relocated during the time, resulting in the deaths of more than 10,000 people. This picture, the Trail of Tears, |
| 00:03:46 | was painted by Robert Lindneux in 1942. It commemorates the suffering of the Cherokee people under forced removal. If any depictions of the Trail of Tears were created at the time of the march, they have not survived. Notice the number of people traveling on foot. Look at the expressions of the people traveling. This is not a celebration. |
| 00:04:19 | Also, note the bundled up clothing. It was late fall when the removals took place. |

**Section 14**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: After the long march, surviving Cherokee made it to the Indian territory. This territory is located in modern day Oklahoma. Here was the Cherokee allotment. Other American Indian groups who had always lived there resented the newcomers. And power struggles broke out. The Cherokee struggled to support themselves. |
| 00:00:24 | Despite the struggles, however, the Cherokee managed to keep their culture alive and rebuild their communities. This map, pictured here, is from the 19th century and shows where the different American Indian tribes lived in the Indian territory, which was in present day Oklahoma. Let's take a look at the modern day Cherokees. |
| 00:00:47 | Today, the Cherokee Nation is the second largest American Indian tribe in the United States. And it's the largest tribe in Oklahoma. They are a federally recognized tribe. And they have independent control over their assets. The Cherokee are leaders in education, health care, and business. |
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